The Valley Patriot

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?

Lawrence Police Chief Roy Vasque and Haverhill Chief Alan DeNaro say overall crime went down in 2020. See Eric Spagnoli's Report on Page 11.

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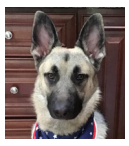

Kane
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Valley Patriot of the Month

U.S. Army Chris Coakley and U.S. Air Force Veteran Stephen O'Donnell

John Cuddy
VALLEY PATRIOT HERO REPORTER

Dracut American Legion Executive Board Members US Army Veteran Chris "Scrubs" Coakley and US Air Force Veteran Stephen "Professor" O'Donnell are both also members of a patriotic motorcycle group known as the Nam Knights.

During the summer of 1989, a small group of Harley Davidson riders, who were also veterans of the Viet Nam war and sworn police officers, formed the original chapter of the Nam Knights.

The Club was founded in New Jersey by Jack Quigley, now a retired undersheriff with the Bergen County Sheriff's Department. He had served as a platoon sergeant with the 11th Motor Transport Battalion, First Marine Division. Today the Nam Knights of America Motorcycle Club has grown into an organization with 69 chapters in sixteen states, Washington D.C. and two Canadian provinces. The group has hundreds of members, consisting of veterans of all eras as well as law enforcement personnel.

From the Fraternal organization's website is their mission statement "The mission of the Nam Knights is to honor the memory of American Veterans and Police Officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty, to assist Veterans and Police Officers in their time of need, and to promote community awareness through sponsorship and participation in various community and fund-raising events."

Also, from their website, is the organization's demographics; current membership is made up of half of the members being police officers, both active and retired and half of the membership is made up of Viet Nam and other military era veterans, plus a few patriotic motorcycle enthusiasts. This last group who are non-police/non-veterans, enjoy all the benefits of any member, but cannot hold executive positions from 1st Sergeant at Arms, up through and including the position of President. All members ride bikes manufactured by the Harley-Davidson Motor Company, the Indian Motor Company or custom-built motorcycles, with the appearance and construction of which is identical to a Harley-Davidson, and which engine parts are interchangeable with a Harley-Davidson and having an engine displacement of 750cc or above.

US Army Veteran Chris Coakley served with 10th Mountain Division as a Medic. Like many of today's Veterans, he joined for the opportunities that military service brings, and to give something back to our Nation. After leaving the Army, he built on his training as a Medic, and became a critical care nurse, an RN. He has a wife, four daughters, and a granddaughter. He enjoys the fellowship and camaraderie of being both a member of the NAM Knights and the American Legion. He particularly enjoys participating in both organizations many

HERO: PAGE 14

Unlike Lawrence, Methuen Tries to Help the Homeless

When faced with a growing homeless population, officials in the City of Lawrence have literally done nothing in the last 8 years to help feed, clothe, house, or assist the homeless in any way.

Instead, Lawrence has been bulldozing tents, taking what few possessions the homeless have, throwing a non-profit out of the Buckley Garage that was feeding the homeless, harassing homeless advocacy groups, and sitting on the sidelines pretending Lawrence doesn't have a homeless problem.

To the contrary, when the state put up dozens of homeless people at the Days Inn in Methuen, Mayor Perry and the city council didn't do what Lawrence did.

The Methuen Mayor and council, while acknowledging the challenges and additional costs of helping the homeless, balked at the idea of trying to shut down the hotel and the program and calling it a day.

Councilor Simard - a hero Lawrence Police Officer - expressed his frustration for the neighbors of the Days Inn on Pelham Street, but also followed up by saying that the city ought to be able to work with officials at the state level to try and service the homeless while also addressing the problems that come with trying to help such a volatile population.

"I can't think of a better reason to have a shelter there run by the state for people who are homeless," Simard said. Councilors Finocchiaro and Beauregard also said that they believed helping the homeless was "a good thing" not a bad thing.

Mayor Perry agreed. "I'm all for helping the homeless, I'm all for helping anybody for any reason, but the [40%] increase in (police) calls is costing the city more money," Perry said.

Perry added he would be having conversations with state officials to find a way to address both the issue of serving the homeless, as well as the increase cost to the city addressing the public safety calls going to the Days Inn.

We would suggest two possible solutions for Methuen officials who are trying to navigate this very complex problem.

First, when state officials give grants to local hotels to house the homeless, they ought to include a stipend for the host community to pay for a police officer to be on the property, so that cops are not being diverted from emergency calls whenever a dispute occurs at that location.

Second: there should be money included in these grants to help homeless people get transitional housing and put them on the path to changing their lives, so they don't go back on the streets.

In fact, we believe that local hotels - which are hurting for the business - could be a permanent location for transitional housing for people down on their luck.

We have long chastised the City of Lawrence for refusing to help the homeless while denying the problem even exists. We also believe it's important to applaud those communities who take this problem seriously and are trying to find creative ways to address the immediate, as well as the long-term problem of homelessness in the valley.

Lawrence has it all wrong.

Methuen has it right.

You can't solve the problem without trying. ◊

State Support for Local Businesses

Rep. Linda Dean Campbell
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

The Massachusetts House of Representatives passed numerous bills last year to support small businesses and hard-hit industries like our restaurants. We have continued that work by sending to Governor Baker's desk a financial relief bill to help businesses and employees most affected by the pandemic.

The bill, which passed the House and Senate unanimously, includes the following provisions:

- For businesses, the legislation will freeze the Unemployment Insurance rate for 2021 and 2022, allow state borrowing to ensure the Unemployment Insurance trust fund remains solvent, and waive state taxes on forgiven PPP loans for small businesses. Waiving state taxes on forgiven PPP loans was the subject of a bipartisan bill filed by House Minority Leader Brad Jones that I was proud to co-sponsor.
- For workers, the legislation will provide an additional safety net by making sure employees have access to paid leave if they need to take time off to get the COVID-19 vaccine, to recover from COVID-19, to quarantine due to exposure, or to care for a loved one due to the virus. Employers will be reimbursed for the cost of this paid leave.
- For unemployed individuals, the legislation will provide a tax credit for those who are unemployed with income below 200% of the federal poverty line. It will also waive penalties for missed tax payments on unemployment benefits received in 2020.

Collectively, these measures will provide timely relief that will support businesses, workers, and their families, while also boosting our state's economic recovery. With much more to be done, our work continues.

The state is also continuing to provide direct aid to Massachusetts businesses to help them stay afloat as our economy recovers. The Commonwealth has given out almost $648 million in direct financial support grants to 14,351 businesses statewide – this includes more than $3.6 million for over 75 Methuen businesses and more than $3.9 million for over 80 Haverhill businesses.

One challenge that lies before us is ensuring businesses and employees have access to the digital tools that have become critical in the remote working economy. I look forward to examining this topic as co-chair of

the Joint Committee on Advanced Information Technology, the Internet and Cybersecurity alongside my respected colleague Senator Barry Finegold. Our committee will examine immediate matters such as issues with the vaccine sign-up website, as well as matters that affect our everyday lives, including high-speed Internet access, data and privacy protections, cybersecurity, and more.

State Representative Linda Dean Campbell represents the cities of Methuen and Haverhill in the State Legislature and serves as House Chair of the Joint Committee on Advanced IT, the Internet and Cybersecurity. She can be reached at Linda.Campbell@mahouse.gov or (617) 722-2380. ◊

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It's Time to Reign in the Governor's Unilateral Authority

IN YOUR CORNER with SENATOR DIZOGLIO

Hello Valley Patriot Readers,

We have been under an indefinite state of emergency, declared by the Governor, for one year now – a challenging period in which we have witnessed countless small businesses close their doors for good and all too many individuals scramble and struggle to obtain a vaccine appointment. More now than ever, we need checks and balances against the Administration's pandemic response, much of which have been sorely misguided.

That is why I have filed legislation, SD2335, An Act relative to the duration of a proclaimed state of emergency, to finally reign in the powers held by the Governor of Massachusetts when it pertains to declaring a state of emergency for an indefinite period of time.

This bill would provide the Legislature with a greater check on the Governor's Administration by limiting a state of emergency declaration to only 60 days, at which point the Governor would be required to request an extension of the emergency declaration.

Ideas for responding to crises like the COVID-19 pandemic should come from the working families in our communities and not from a single person or administration. We need to come back to the democratic process, where our residents have a seat at the table again. There must also be a return to a bidding process, as we've seen throughout this pandemic the Governor unilaterally hand out millions and millions of dollars taxpayer-funded contracts to hand-picked, private companies no bidding process involved.

We've seen, time and time again, the administration take unilateral action, without input from the community, only to need to go back and change things that could've been addressed from the beginning had he only sought such input. The Administration wasted time and taxpayer dollars on a website that more created headaches than helped and allocated the vast majority of vaccine doses to mass vaccination sites that were inaccessible to our most vulnerable populations. If the Governor chose to consult with the elected representatives from our communities, about what residents like you were saying, this could easily have been prevented. The Governor's Administration is not supposed to be the main lawmaking body in Massachusetts. Legislators are tasked with working alongside residents every day on the ground, in the community, and legislating based on those conversations. Instead of that community-based approach to governance where the people have the power, the current administration has instead relied on hand-picked appointees and completely bypassed the elected representative voice of the people at every corner. We are living under a new form of rule in Massachusetts where there is now a complete top-down, authoritative approach to the issues facing Massachusetts.

No one person, regardless of who the person is, should have this much authority for this much time. The people of Massachusetts deserve to have their voices heard again in a process that respects all voices, and not just the most powerful. I am hopeful we can get this bill across the finish line as soon as possible and provide our communities the voice and support they continue to desperately need in recovering from the pandemic.

If you have questions about this or any other issue, please contact me and my team anytime via email at diana.dizoglio@masenate.gov or phone 978-984-7747.

Yours in service,

Diana ◊

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‘Lori from Lowell’ Just Another Partisan Politician

Brian Genest
DRACUT COLUMNIST

WEATHER 101 with AL KAPRIELIAN

Looking Back at March

Welcome to April and the first full month of the spring season. As we go through April the sun angle continues to get higher in the sky.

As a result, daytime temperatures will increase by month’s end. In contrast to warmer temperatures in April we can get some chilly weather with even some snow. Snow can still occur in April, however, with the higher sun angle it melts very fast. Back in April 1997 we had a major snowstorm and due to the time of year the snow was heavy and wet. With the high-water content in the snow this put weight on the trees and power lines causing them to fall and we had numerous power outages as a result.

Last April we saw some snow and we had accumulating snow as late as April 18. Recapping March the month started off quite active with rain and strong wind on the evening of March 1st into March 2nd. The strong winds caused numerous power outages due to downed trees and power lines. Some of the wind gusts were as follows:

Provincetown on the tip of Cape Cod had the highest wind gust of 76 miles per hour. This is greater than hurricane force winds which are 74 miles per hour or greater. Dennis on Cape Cod had a wind gust to 66 miles per hour, Falmouth had a wind gust to 56 miles per hour, Chatham 52 miles per hour, Gloucester 56 miles per hour, Lawrence Airport 51miles per hour, Beverly Airport 51 miles per hour, Bradford & Newburyport 46 miles per hour, Cambridge 63 miles per hour, Westford 55 miles per hour, Bedford 53 miles per hour, Duxbury 56 miles per hour, Plymouth 53 miles per hour, Carson Beach 63 miles per hour, Revere Beach 55 miles per hour, Mendon & Worcester 62 miles per hour. Cold weather dominated the beginning of March as arctic air moved down from Canada as we were north of the Jet Stream (cold side) March 2nd and 15th only saw high temperatures in the 20s to around 30 degrees. Some warm weather occurred between March 2nd and the 15th.

On Thursday March 11th we saw record high warmth with new record high temperatures at the following locations: Boston reached 74 degrees on March 11th, the old record high was 67 degrees in 1990, Worcester reached 70 degrees, the old record was 66 degrees in 1977, Providence Rhode Island reached 72 degrees, the old record was 71 degrees in 1990, Concord, New Hampshire reached 68 degrees, the old record was 65 degrees in 1871.

Many areas in southern New Hampshire saw high temperatures in the low 70s. No major snowstorms occurred in March which was surprising. Some days reported very minor amounts on the following dates: March 1st, March 2nd, March 8th, March 13th & 14th. During March heavy snow measured in feet occurred in Colorado and some western states. The low-pressure system that produced snow in these areas produced tornadoes over the Texas Panhandle and Gulf Coast states. The Spring Equinox occurred at 5:37 AM on Saturday March 20th. This day featured 100 per cent of the possible sun with high temperatures in the 50s. By Sunday March 21st and Monday March 22nd with also 100 per cent sun many areas away from the immediate coast reached the low to middle 60s.

The warm weather on March 22nd was in sharp contrast to the frigid cold on March 15th, only one week earlier. After days with a clear sky and full sunshine as a result of high pressure some high clouds (cirrus) started to move in late on March 23rd. Prior to the high clouds moving in, it was another warm day away from the coast with temperatures of 65-70 degrees. After a dry March with little rainfall some showers moved in on the evening of March 24th. The showers ended on March 25th; however, the low clouds were slower to lift than thought. As a result, high temperatures did not get in to the 70s and remained in the 60s. On Friday March 26th, with more sunshine, many areas away from the south coast reached into the middle 70s. A cold front that night brought in cooler air on Saturday. Dry weather continued on Saturday. Rain moved in by mid-day on Sunday March 28th followed by a dry and very windy day on Monday March 29th. On Monday a lot of areas saw wind gusts in excess of 50 miles per hour.

This was strong enough to result in power outages which occurred due to downed trees and power lines. As high pressure moved in, winds diminished in the evening hours. A beautiful day occurred on March 30th with a clear blue sky and lots of sunshine. This March will be remembered for the number of clear sunny days. Winds were much lighter on March 30th with high pressure closer to us. On the last day of March, despite a mostly cloudy sky, high temperatures reached the middle to upper 60s in many areas. Some showers moved in during that evening. March ended with warm temperatures and the month averaged warmer than normal by as much as 3 to 4 degrees. Rainfall averaged below normal. What will April bring in terms of weather??? Stay tuned to next month’s article for all the details. In the meantime, enjoy the spring season and stay safe!!! ◊

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Monthly Report on Mayor Perry

Putting Veterans First In Methuen

Eric Spagnoli
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

Methuen Mayor Neil Perry had an uphill battle recently getting his pick for Veteran's Services Officer approved by the city council. A majority of the council was initially against the appointment of Paul Jensen after veteran groups in the city spoke out against his nomination. During the meeting however, Perry was able to persuade a majority of the city council to approve Jensen. He is now in charge of providing services to veterans who live in Methuen.

Since then, local veteran groups have (at least publicly) embraced Jensen and vowed to work with him. Perry talked with Jensen publicly about moving forward.

Paul Jensen has been a Methuen resident for the past 12 years, is a veteran of the 82nd Airborne Division, in which he was an active-duty commissioned officer.

He was then appointed by deceased Senator Ted Kennedy to the US Military Academy, where he taught chemistry for three years. Following the end of his military career in 1986, Jensen worked in the defense technology industry for 30 years. In 2008, he became the CEO of Halo Maritime Defense Systems. He retired from this position in 2017.

At this point, Jensen became involved with a group of investors working with a company in Wakefield, MA named Byrna Technologies, which specializes in less-than-lethal weaponry and defense technology.

He was appointed to his current role as Veterans Services Officer in January 2021.

When asked how he was settling into his position, Jensen was optimistic.

"Methuen has a great history of support for veterans. The first thing I wanted to change was the impression that we make when [veterans] come in [to the office]. It is a professionally run, efficient organization."

"My first priority is to have a presentable area that we can all be proud of that sends the right message about how we support our veterans."

Jensen also remarked that there are a large number of services available for Methuen veterans today, especially in Massachusetts. According to him, it is the only state that boasts Chapter 115, a support program for veterans that provides numerous benefits for those who have served and their families.

During the interview, Mayor Perry noted that when he appointed Jensen to his current position, there was a "hullabaloo," amidst public complaints of favoritism and nepotism.

However, both Mayor Perry and Jensen denied ever meeting each other before Jensen's interview process prior to the appointment. Jensen took the opportunity to address these complaints.

"I came into this thing with no agendas and no connections...I talked to the VFW, and I talked to the people, and I understand where they were coming from. They just didn't know who I was."

He also explained that his intentions in applying for this position came out of a strong desire to serve the public.

"Every job I've ever had, I've sort of turned it into a personal crusade, a cause to do something bigger than myself. That's really what I'm all about."

Jensen claimed that the feedback he has received from Methuen veterans has been "extremely positive," crediting a call log he has instituted in the Veterans' Office that has helped himself and other employees keep track of veterans and their needs.

However, he expressed concern that many veterans in Methuen are not aware of the services available to them.

"I wasn't even aware of [the services], so I think the outreach part is really important."

Despite his distaste for Facebook, Jensen encouraged veterans to join and keep track of the Methuen Veterans Facebook page (run by the VFW) for more information regarding his office's services.

When asked about his vision for the veterans' community in Methuen, Jensen expressed a desire to "go beyond the routine," including a prospective project to honor veterans of the Vietnam War.

"We're looking at, for example, bringing [the miniature version of] the Vietnam Veterans' Wall to the city...It would really be a wonderful community activity to recognize our Vietnam veterans."

This effort is currently pending approval from a commission in Washington D.C.

Jensen also sung his praises for the JROTC community in Methuen.

"They are such good kids. They're so well composed in the way they carry themselves and express themselves."

Jensen expressed a strong desire to have JROTC members cooperate with himself, the VFW, and the American Legion in organizing Memorial Day activities.

"The more people who get involved, the better."

When asked about any additional services that his office provides regarding COVID-19, Jensen (who has been fully vaccinated himself) explained that vaccines are offered by the VA (Veterans Affairs), which he referred to as "very, very efficient." The organization has recently opened up vaccines for veterans of all ages who are in the VA system.

However, there is an ongoing effort in the Veterans Services Office to open up vaccines to all veterans, regardless of their presence in the VA system.

Mayor Perry also encouraged all citizens to get their vaccinations when they become available.

When given the opportunity to provide some closing remarks at the conclusion of the interview, Jensen took the opportunity to recognize the employees of City Hall.

"Everybody I've met has been so supportive and so helpful, and everybody's there to serve the community... [The people in City Hall] are honest, salt-of-the-earth people. That's why we live in Methuen."

"From a veteran's standpoint, if I can make lives better for the veterans in our community, then that's part of that bigger effort."

Eric Spagnoli is a Senior English and Communication student at Saint Anselm College in Goffstown, NH. He is an aspiring journalist with a passion for sports, comedy, and public service. You can email him: espagnoli@Anselm.Edu ◊

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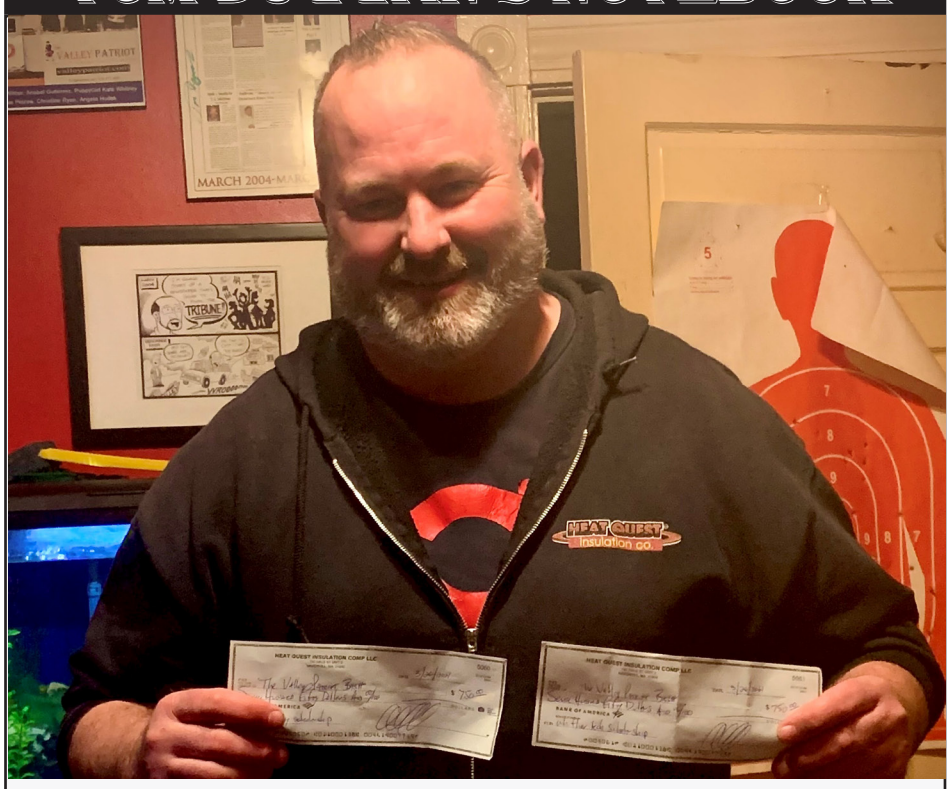

AMESBURY RIVERWALK STORY WALK - The award-winning book Fry Bread: A Native American Family Story is now posted along the Riverwalk. Take the kids to enjoy these short, lyrical poems and read the author explanation for each as you walk along finding the pages every few feet.

It's a great way to get some fresh air and enjoy a book! This StoryWalk(tm) is made possible by the Amesbury Public Library in collaboration with the Amesbury Poetry Month - all thanks to the Amesbury Cultural Council. Enjoy it the whole month of April!

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Tuesday, April 13, 2021, 10 – 11AM

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NOTEBOOK: NEXT PAGE

State Police Seize ‘Ghost Gun’ During Arrest of Lawrence Man Wanted for Crimes in Methuen

A 20-year-old man wanted for armed robbery, assault with dangerous weapons, firearm offenses and making threats in Methuen was arrested Thursday and a “ghost gun,” ammunition and drugs seized by Massachusetts State Police.

A “ghost gun” has no serial number and is an untraceable gun assembled from parts purchased separately.

Marino Pimental of Lawrence was arrested by troopers assigned to the Violent Fugitive Apprehension Section after several months of searching. When troopers went to the Fern Street, Lawrence, home, they were met by a woman who gave a false name but was later identified as 39-year-old Glenny Torbio. She was also wanted on a warrant for narcotics distribution and arrested. Pimental was found in a bedroom, where troopers saw a gun next to him on a television stand. After obtaining a search warrant, troopers said the gun used a Glock P80 frame. They also seized 17 rounds of .45 caliber ammunition, one 9mm round and pills believed to be Alprazolam, manufactured to treat anxiety and panic disorders.

State Police said additional charges are pending. ◊

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Kane's Corner: Hidden Battle Foundation

Kane was excited to score an interview with Scott Hyder the Director of Hidden Battle Foundation and Social Media Director Christopher Hurst. Kane follows their social media page "Hidden Battles" on Facebook. This page features many helpful articles, supportive research, and motivational stories about the needs and tireless work of veterans and first responders in our community. So, let's dive in to learn what the Hidden Battle Foundation is all about.

Hidden Battles Foundation raises public awareness of the unique struggles experienced by returning military members to civilian life, police officers, firefighters, correction officers, and first responders. What else do they do? Well, they provide the best type of support possible, a sense of community and belonging for these unique individuals that answer the call to serve their country and local community. Our community relies on these important individuals to preserve our freedom, public safety and emergency care. Kane has much respect for our local public servants and military members who often put themselves in harm's way to protect the freedom: safety and health of others. Kane thought all beings need to feel they are part of a community of like-minded individuals. He has made lots of friends over the past year in his neighborhood.

Kane is hopeful our fellow Americans are aware of the high suicide rates and internal struggles experienced by veterans and first responders

stemming from the trauma experienced by performing the necessary tasks of their vocation. The identified causes of these deaths and struggles stem from mental health challenges including Post Traumatic Stress, job related stress, traumatic brain injury and the struggle to reintegrate back into daily life.

As Kane knows from spending some time working at a Mental Health practice, trauma can be stored in the brain in a manner that affects the everyday living of those who experienced it. Aspects of the past may be experienced in the present. Hidden Battle helps preserve the Healthy Mind of the Participants by creating a "Buddy System" of other veterans and first responders who have had similar experiences partnered with civilian organizations who support the journey of preserving the healthy mind through connection and the purpose of spreading awareness.

Kane learned through Scott and Chris that Hidden Battles builds a supportive community for participants by connecting through activities. The connection happens naturally by working on a joint task, conversations with people who have had similar life experiences, and jointly supporting and helping others. Kane understood that the pace of developing connection is self-driven. Participants can share experiences with others if they desire or just enjoy the process of a joint task. Helping others creates a sense of purpose and satisfaction that easily attaches to the feel-good components of the brain.

Kane was excited to learn that Hidden Battles encourages and welcomes family participation. A very popular activity has been cooking classes for couples. In fact, there will be a May 8th and June 12th class this year. Besides the benefit of doing an activity, like cooking as a couple, family members have the opportunity to connect with other veteran and first responders' families. Chris and Scott reported even if cooking isn't your thing, it's more about the opportunity to have fun with other couples. Other activities include family movie and date nights. The next movie date night is scheduled for April 17th at Chunky's in Nashua. Kane doesn't know how to cook, but he does like to eat. Sometimes he eats food he isn't supposed to have, but to be honest it's worth getting in trouble even if it is in the trash. He doesn't know what the big deal is that humans don't want the food in the trash anyway.

Another important activity that Hidden Battles hosts is the 22 for 22 Ruck held this year on May 22nd at Newfound Lake in New Hampshire. Participants are encouraged to ruck with 22 pounds in the Ruck Sac to represent the 22 veterans that take their lives daily. Participants have the option of a 5k, 10k or 22-mile Ruck. Fundraising is an option for this event. Kane knows it is of utmost importance to spread awareness of the struggles of our returning veterans. Feeling comfortable reaching out for support and connection cannot be emphasized enough.

Kane wants his readers to know about other upcoming events hosted by Hidden Battles including a Corn Hole Tournament at the Bunting Club in Lowell on September 25th. Since Kane doesn't have any thumbs, he wasn't sure if he could play this game but that won't stop him from going to hang out with his peers. Also, on July 17th Hidden Battles has a kayaking day on Newfound Lake. Kane isn't a big swimmer but he certainly likes hanging out knee deep in water watching for some lady pups on the shore. He has never been in a boat before but he thinks it looks pretty cool.

In conclusion Kane reminded himself that beings are most healthy when they do not isolate and feel they belong to a greater community. People gain strength and energy from helping others and working collectively in groups. A group can be a family, biological or not. Hidden Battle provides an opportunity for members of our law enforcement and veteran community to continue the important bond they developed during their years performing the requirements of their profession. If you would like additional information on donating to Hidden Battles financially, volunteering your time, or participating in activities please contact the Hidden Battles Foundation at hiddenbattlesfoundation.org.

Signing out

Kane Peaslee , Woof ◊

After Drug Stash Found in State Facility Officials Suddenly Suspend All K9 Searches

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quites from kevin

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Now It's the People's Turn!!

Warming the Hearts at the Daybreak Shelter

On Saturday, April 3rd, 2021, there was an Easter meal delivery event that was taking place in Newburyport which provided over 350 meals to the community. Within those deliveries, there were meals delivered to several living facilities and programs like the Daybreak Shelter throughout Greater Newburyport. When the request was put out from The Psychological Center on Facebook looking for support to host a "very special Easter dinner celebration" for their guests. It caught the attention of one of the board members from Operation Warming Hearts.

What started with the simple idea of providing meals was taken to a whole another level the more and more Paul Riopelle thought on it, sharing with the Valley Patriot, "They want a special Easter dinner celebration, they will get it. Their guests will dine with dignity with a full-blown Easter celebration." Through his efforts over 50 Easter baskets were donated, and Easter dinner for all their guest, which consisted of Ham, Mac & Cheese, Green Beans, and dinner rolls. Plates, napkins, and silverware were also provided as well.

Through Operation Warming Hearts efforts over 150 Easter Baskets were delivered to 5 different programs similar to the Daybreak Shelter throughout the Merrimack Valley. Three hundred and fifty meals were prepared by their kitchen crew, packaged in microwavable containers, and delivered using covid-compliant contactless delivery. Programs like the Daybreak Shelter received their meals in aluminum buffet pans. The baskets were donated from a variety of friends and family, and groups and organizations like Operation Delta Dog, Exchange Club of the Greater Newburyport, Veterans Northeast Outreach Center, and State Rep Colleen Garry all pitched in and donated baskets.

Since the start of the pandemic Operation Warming Heats has been hosting numerous events and serving hundreds of meals. They have worked with several Veteran Service Officers to get meals to veterans, Council of Agings, Housing Authorities, and programs like the Daybreak Shelter and have served close to 3,000 meals to date. "When we see a need we try to help" states, Paul Riopelle, from Operation Warming Hearts, "and that is our the main focus at Operation Warming Hearts."

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Ye Gay Ol' Valley

Difficult Conversations with a Gay Person

Dani Langevin
LESBIAN COLUMNIST

As a result of the current social climate in America (and the one that has existed since its birth), many friends and colleagues have been asking my advice on how to talk to or "handle" difficult conversations with a gay person. What do you say when they come out? How do you handle a clearly homophobic sentiment? What do you do when a student tells you they want to be referred to by a new name and pronouns? Allow me to do my best to enlighten you.

First and foremost, your feelings do not matter. It is not your place to judge or let them know that you're "okay" or that you're uncomfortable with it. The person who is speaking to you has already gone through years of self-reflection, so check your prejudices and knee jerk reactions at the door. If someone is speaking to you about their sexuality, they trust you with their emotions; honor that trust and use sensitive language and understanding (as best you can). They're not asking for your blessing and it's not yours to give.

Let's start with the big one: when someone comes out to you. I want to make it perfectly clear that this whole "coming out" thing is incredibly disconcerting and insulting. Why does this have to be done? No heterosexual has to proclaim their sexuality. It's a complete violation of a person's private rights and has to stop. I digress. When someone comes out to you, the ONLY proper response is: "Thank you for trusting me." That's it! If you are truly happy for that person, tell them. Celebrate! Hug them and tell them how happy you are for them and thrilled to be a part of this part of their lives. If you are not comfortable or happy, just say, "Thank you for trusting me." Do NOT say, "I'm okay with that." Your blessing is not needed. Don't say, "Thank you for telling me. I still love you. (looking sad) I'm just concerned about the difficulty you'll have coming from other people." This is NOT comforting. Case in point:

A friend tells you that they and/or their partner is pregnant. Ninety-nine percent of the time, this is met with smiles, hugs, and congratulatory celebrations. I have never heard anyone say, "Thank you for telling me. I still love you. I'm just concerned about how difficult parenting is and about the difficulty your children will bring you." This is not comforting. Celebrate someone's coming out just as much as the announcement of the birth of a child, because that's what it is- a birth.

Don't ask them if they are sure. Of course, they're sure, this is why they are telling you. They have already gone through years of handwringing, sleep loss and questioning their own self-worth before arriving at a space where they are comfortable enough to talk to - you! By asking them if they are sure, you're sending a strong message that: there is something wrong with what they are telling you, they should doubt their own inner thoughts and voice to make you more comfortable, and finally, how would you feel if someone asked you if you were sure about your heterosexuality? This should be met with no less gratitude than someone giving you an unexpected gift.

It is imperative to know that every LGBTQ+ person, without exception, has had to go through a painful and highly personal process of self-acceptance. Nothing you say or do should feed into their doubts or insecurities. We all have already beat ourselves up more times than society could ever imagine. We have already treated ourselves with such self-loathing and doubt that we don't need anyone else adding to it. Another case in point:

When I was dating my ex-husband, I was struggling with my sexuality and feared losing everything I loved, if I came out. I asked him one night what he thought of gay people. His response: "Put them on an island and blow them all up." The conversation ended there and I married him a few years later. I married a man that wanted to put me on an island and blow me up and I married him anyway. This is how low my level of self-respect had fallen. This is the extreme I would go to, to try to "fit in" and be "normal." I didn't need to be beaten up any more by anyone when I finally began the coming out process, which really started at my birth and took 30 years to come to fruition.

If a person informs you that they now prefer to be called by a different name and pronouns, honor that. You don't question it when a woman changes her last name after marriage or when a person adds the title of doctor before their name even though they weren't born a doctor. Names are important. Pronouns are important. Respect them. If you forget and get it wrong, apologize, correct yourself and move on. Again, think of how annoying it is when someone simply pronounces your name wrong. What if they got it wrong every time and ignored your self-advocating or, worse, admonished you for it?

How do you handle a homophobic slur or sentiment? Don't ignore it and hope it goes away. EVERY single one of the members of my Gender Sexuality Alliance at Methuen High School have said that the adults in their lives almost never address the issue of homophobia. Why? They don't seem to have a problem with speaking up against other bigoted language. Why not homophobia? Is it that they attach sex to it? It has nothing to do with sex. Stop reducing the LGBTQ+ community to one minor part of their lives. Perhaps if you moved on from that as our community has, you can get past your own homophobia. So, if you hear a homophobic comment, call it out. Explain that it is not acceptable. Love is love and what they are saying or doing is not only hurtful to the person or people it is directed at, it also hurts and damages everyone in the community by creating an atmosphere of unnecessary hate and prejudice.

Prejudice and homophobia are learned sentiments and behavior. Accepting your own prejudices and homophobia is the first step to ending it. I have.

GAYS: PAGE 21

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CP4VNE is continually serving our Service Members, Veterans, and their families during the COVID-19 pandemic. To date we have provided over **14,000** Food4Vets food supply kits in partnership with Massachusetts Military Support Foundation across New England including Middlesex, Essex, Rockingham, and Hillsborough counties.

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To learn more about our programs, workshops, and upcoming events visit us at clearpathne.org or by scanning the QR code below with your smartphone.

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Dr. John Armano is pleased to announce the opening of Stadium Chiropractic PC located at 2 Durso Ave in Lawrence, adjacent to the Registry of Motor Vehicles behind Taco Bell. Dr. John Armano has been serving the Merrimack Valley for the past 31 years specializing in injury rehab sports medicine as well as pain management for acute and chronic conditions

Dr. Cindy Armano has been serving Boston's North shore for the past 31 years also specializing in injury rehab as well as family care and nutritional counseling. Se Habla Espanol.

One of our favorite local restaurants is Tomo on Broadway in Salem, NH. Last month we took the crew to Tomo and our chef at the Hibache gave quite a show!

Vietnam Vet Rich Russelll of Lawrence Honored at Local Celebration

Lawrence resident and Vietnam Veteran Rich Russell was honored last month during a memorial service at the Beliveue cemetary in Lawrence. A wooden flag was donated by?

Adrian Urena, (40) of Lawrence Pleads Guilty to Defense Contracting Fraud

A Lawrence man pleaded guilty today to a scheme to defraud the U.S. Navy relating to glove liners purchased for use on nuclear submarines.

Adrian Urena, 40, pleaded guilty to one count of possessing false papers to defraud the United States and one count of making false statements. U.S. District Court Judge Richard G. Stearns scheduled sentencing for July 28, 2021.

Urena was an employee of a Lawrence company that contracts with the U.S. Navy through the Defense Contract Management Agency. The contractor entered into a contract to provide the Navy with white glove liners for use on nuclear submarines meeting certain specifications, including that the contractor would test the glove liners for heat sensitivity and obtain an associated certificate of testing. To avoid the testing requirement, Urena manufactured counterfeit certificates of testing and compliance, and presented these counterfeit certificates to a Department of Defense contracting officer. When investigators questioned Urena about the counterfeit certificates, Urena falsely claimed that the certificates were not intended to be genuine.

The charges of possession of false documents to defraud the United States and false statements each provide for a sentence of up to five years in prison, three years of supervised release and a fine of up to $250,000. Sentences are imposed by a federal district court judge based upon the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors. ◊

Music Soothes Us To Better Health

Rick Bellanti
VALLEY PATRIOT REPORTER

Listening to music is a great way to pick up your spirits and put you in a better mood, and not just listening to music but performing music can make us happier, healthier and more productive in every aspect of our lives. Music has the power to bring forth our better nature, some studies have been done on what researchers refer to as pro social behaviors, listening to music makes people more inclined to spend time and energy helping others feel better.

There are now tests in neuroscience that enables researchers to measure how music affects our brains. This new ground breaking research is effectively called Neuromusicology, which in a sense explores how the nervous system reacts to music. At the conclusion of these tests, it was revealed that, music does activate all known parts of our brain.

So how does music enhance our moods and functions of our brain?

One of the ways music affects our mood is by stimulating the formation of certain brain chemicals. Listening to music increases the neurotransmitter dopamine. Our body makes it naturally, and your nervous system uses it to send messages between nerve cells. That's why it's sometimes called a chemical messenger.

Dopamine is our brains motivation activation and is a very important part of our pleasure reward system. In addition to playing an integral role in the motivational and reward processes, dopamine is involved in motor control as well as triggering a release of various hormones. High levels of dopamine tend to enhance concentration, boost mood, and have a pro-social effect.

The brain releases it at different times like when we eat food that we crave or even listening to our favorite type of music. It is basically contributing to feelings of pleasure and satisfaction as part of the reward system in our brains. This important neurochemical boosts our mood, gives us motivation, we are more attentive to our surroundings and emotional responses.

Many ancient societies believed that music has a therapeutic effect on the mind and body.

With neuromusicology, researchers have incorporated music therapy into attempts to treat behavioral problems. With these technological improvements in brain research methods, it has been possible via neuromusicology, to gain a better understanding of musical cognition and how this information can provide a basis for therapeutic applications of music.

Science has now proven what all musicians and music enthusiasts already know; that listening to upbeat music can improve your mood. Listening to and also performing music reduces chronic stress by lowering the stress hormone cortisol. Turning on some of your favorite music can make you feel powerful, happy, and have a more positive outlook on what's going on in our lives. And by increasing these endorphins, it can also help you cope with pain.

Some studies have shown that music can also help alleviate the symptoms of mood and mental disorders including, anxiety, depression, insomnia, ADHD and PTSD. Listening to music reduces the stress experienced by patients, both before, and after surgery, and helps with pain management. Research on the effects of music on pain management found that patients who listened to music before, during, or even after surgery experienced less pain and anxiety than those who did not listen to music.

As we go through hard times (especially now through this Pandemic) listening to sad music can be cathartic as well, because it will help you get in touch with all your emotions and help you heal. So, listening to sad music has its benefits as well.

HERO: FROM PAGE 1

patriotic activities.

US Air Force Veteran Stephen O'Donnell enlisted in 1968, rose to the rank of Sergeant. He spent more than 4 years in the USAF and served in Combat Support Groups for 23 months in South East Asia during Viet Nam. He was an aircraft electrician, and during his time worked on B-52s, KC135s, F4s, EC 121s, and AC 130s. After leaving the service, he worked as Laborer, a Teamster, and after becoming a Somerville Police Officer he attended and completed college receiving graduate degrees in CJ and Psychology. He then became a professor at NHTI, Community College in Concord, NH, where he taught for 22 years. He has a wife and two sons. After retiring the Professor took a 40-day motorcycle trip of more than 10,000 miles travelling cross country and back at 67 years of age.

Both the Dracut American Legion and the NAM Knights join for a myriad of patriotic and civic activities. These range from food drives, to clothing for our troops overseas. The NAM Knights constructed a wheelchair lift for a disabled Dracut Veteran at his home. They are involved with a Bass fishing tournament at Camp Robindel in Moultonborough, NH that focuses on young, inured Veterans.

The Dracut American Legion asks all World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans, to call (603) 518-5368 and sign up for an Honor Flight to the Memorials in Washington DC! Veterans of all eras are asked to go the American Legion's Web site www.legion.org, and join the American Legion, preserving our Veteran's Benefits for future generations.

John Cuddy served in the US Navy's Construction Battalions (also known as the Seabees) after retiring from the Navy; he earned a bachelor's in history and a master's in economics from the University of Massachusetts on the Lowell Campus. He has been employed in Logistics at FedEx for the last 24 years. If you know a World War II veteran who would like their story told, please email him at John.Cuddy@Yahoo.com. ◊

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Audit Highlights Issues Related to Overtime at Chelsea Soldiers' Home

BOSTON - In an audit released last month of the Chelsea Soldiers' Home (CHE), State Auditor Suzanne M. Bump found that the lack of an effective system for tracking overtime resulted in unapproved overtime being paid to nursing staff members. The audit, which examined July 1, 2017 through June 30, 2019, identified $223,136 in incremental overtime paid to nursing personnel that was either unauthorized or unapproved.

Staff can accumulate incremental overtime by clocking in before a shift is scheduled to begin or clocking out after their shift is scheduled to end, or by not clocking out for unpaid meal time. Auditors determined there were 9,804 instances of incremental overtime paid to nursing personnel that CHE was unaware of and did not authorize, and therefore could not substantiate it was essential for veteran care.

The audit also found issues with CHE's documentation of premium overtime which is work that exceeds 8 hours per day or 40 hours per week and is paid at more than the standard hourly rate. For the 20,664 premium overtime payments totaling $3,320,033 during the audit period, CHE did not document the need for all overtime hours worked or that all members of its nursing staff had received required prior approval for overtime shifts. In addition, CHE could not provide daily staffing schedules for 17 of the 24 months examined by the audit. The staffing schedules that the Home did provide, contained numerous discrepancies in overtime records. The audit notes, these shortcomings may have resulted in CHE incurring unnecessary overtime costs.

"There is no excuse for state agencies' continuing failures to properly administer employee overtime programs," said Bump. "Evidently, at the Chelsea Soldiers Home there was no attention paid to when nurses were clocking in and out or supervisor approvals for millions of dollars of premium overtime. It is therefore impossible to tell how much of this compensation was justified by the needs of the patients and how much constitutes pure taxpayer abuse."

The audit recommended CHE revise its overtime authorization process, ensure that daily staffing schedules and weekly overtime summary forms are completed, and enhance procedures for overtime recordkeeping. In its response, CHE indicated it was taking steps to address these recommendations.

During the audit, CHE paid out $3,320,033 in overtime to 169 nursing and medical personnel, which accounted for 81 percent of total overtime expenses.

Bump's previous audit of the Holyoke Soldiers' Home found similar issues related to the approval of overtime for medical staff.

CHE operates within the Department of Veterans' Services, which is part of the Executive Office of Health and Human Services (EOHHS). The Soldiers' Home provides skilled nursing, care for veterans with Alzheimer's disease, and other long-term care. It is governed by a seven-member board of trustees appointed by the Secretary of EOHHS with the Governor's approval. Day-to-day operations are administered by a superintendent who is also appointed by the Secretary of EOHHS with the Governor's approval. During the audit, the Soldiers' Home served 293 veterans.◊

BELLANTI: FROM 14

Put together a play list of your favorite songs and artists, the best of the best, the ones that bring back great memories and the ones that want to make you dance. When listening to your playlist, you can further increase dopamine by choosing shuffle mode, because when one of your favorite songs unexpectedly comes up, it triggers an extra dopamine boost.

Whether you are going out for a walk or inside doing housework and projects, put on some music in the background, music enhances your mood and will make doing your tasks more enjoyable as well as more efficiently. When you are driving, turn up those tunes and sing, dance and wave at strangers, smile and get those endorphins flowing.

Rick Bellanti is a professional musician and DJ as well as a health and wellness columnist and is on a journey himself to lose 240lbs and has lost 140 lbs. since the start of 2015. If you have any questions or comments, please post them to his Getting Healthy with Rick Bellanti Facebook page and once a month he will address a few of the topics here. ◊

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Dascomb Road Development LLC, NBPIII Dascomb LLC, 37,005,613, 146 Dascomb Rd

Alison M & Thach B Tran, Alida Rosado Rodriguez, 625,000, 1-3 Brechin Ter

Merrimack Valley Real Estate Solutions LLC, Ankit Batheja & Denitiza Stantcheva, 625,000, 13 Webster St

Gerard Pouliot & Susan Siegel, Coventry Development Inc, 975,000, 44 Morton St

Alyson B Veneto , Joseph T Martin Jr & Kimberly C Parker, 861,000, 11 Westwind Rd

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Tracy A & John C Scoyne, Barbara Donegan, 235,000, 20 Colonial Dr Unit 20-8

Frank Wing Y Chiu, Howard E Haywood Jr & Rosanne Haywood, 170,000, 40 Washington Park Dr Unit 8

Yaman & Samantha Sharma, Alicia Schnip, 789,250, 5 Carmel Rd

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Diverse Real Estate LLC, Hoang V Tran & Nga Bach Le & Diem T Tran, 710,000, 8-10 Ridge St

Andover Storage Associates LLC, MHC 88 (Andover MA) LLC, 3,450,000, 17-18, 17R Dundee Park

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R&Q MA Realty Trust & Baorui Ren Tr & Hui Qian Tr, Benjamin & Jessica Hoerner , 850,000, 39 Farrwood Dr

Matthew DeSanto & Caitlin Sullivan, Anna R Terry, 770,000, 14 Lucerne Dr

WCV-299-301 Ballardvale LLC, CBE 300 Ballardvale LLC, 10,000,000, 300 Ballardvale St

Hui Yeng Chang, Alexander John Prokopienko & Alexandra Pishenin Reilly Prokopienko, 525,000, 196 Jenkins Rd

123 & 131 Main Street Realty Trust & Nancy M Gurry Tr & H William Gurry Tr, Arthur McCue Jr/Arthur McCue, 850,000, 123 Main St

Lisa Stevenson, Jonathan & Krista Knickerbocker, 880,000, 71 Chestnut St

Susan M & Thomas J O'Leary Jr, 142 North Street CBC LLC, 375,000, 142 North St

Ramsey Bahrawy, South Bay Properties LLC II, 120,000, 138 Haverhill St Unit A-9

Yvon Cormier Tr & CA Investment Trust, Theano D Evangelis Kapur Tr & Theane Evangelis Tr & Evangelis Family Trust, 1,995,000, 10 Trevino Cir

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LAWRENCE

William P Lockhart Est & Maryanne P Clough, Francisco Horton, 285,000, 52, 54, 54A Hillside Ave

Vladimir & Sophia Ivanov/Sophia Menn, Jessica King Green, 173,000, 86 Beacon St Unit 7

Leocadio Bruno & Ramona Bruno & Jose Julian Santana, Marianela De Jesus Gonzalez, 610,000, 25-25A Bromfield St

Elizabeth Gomez, Ignacio Linares, 490,000, 725-727 Haverhill St

Melissa Ferrigno & Vincent Ferrigno Jr, Melissa Ferrigno, 205,000, 175-177 Abbott St

CCM Properties Group LLC, Kennia Mejia, 120,000, 260 East Haverhill St Unit 12

Jose Mendez & Oscarina Quinones, Maria Antonia Pena, 530,000, 51 Bodwell St

CCM Properties Group LLC, Michelle Fermin Viviers, 125,000, 260 East Haverhill St Unit 15

Bernardo Coste & Rosa Maria Almonted, Pena Real Estate & Investments LLC, 500,000, 235 Walnut St

Jonathan & Marisol Difo, Stephen Jansen, 175,000, 19 Belleveu St Unit 1

One Thousand One Hundred Thirty Four Essex Street Nominee Trust & Diego Neira Tr, Maria Alexandra Rodas, 130,000, 1134 Essex ST

Cube Man llC, 516 Broadway Realty LLC, 2,900,000, 516 Broadway

Silverado Realty Trust & Michael L Lopez Tr , Israel Reyes Tr & Patricia Sanchez-Reyes Tr & Hancock Realty Trust, 900,000, 28-30 Morton St

Ybelkay Y Ortiz/Ybelkay Ortiz & Juan C Ortiz, Lucy T Mercedes, 417,000, 7 Vandergrift St

Pavel & Yuli Khaykin, Guivens Andre, 410,000, 48 Union St

Julia I Silverio Tr & 202 Arlington Street Nominee Trust, Carmen G Perez Velasquez, 250,000, 202 Arlington St Unit A

Christopher R York, Tomas Mejia Grullon & Jinet Altagracia Reinoso De Mejia, 505,000, 225-227 Lawrence St

John L Silverio Tr & JLS-Lawrence Realty Trust, Jay Patel Tr & Regency Irrevocable Trust, 377,500, 279-281 South Broadway

McCormack Family Trust & Thomas McCormack Tr & Charlene I McCormack Tr , Progresso LLC, 310,000, 46 Beacon St

Ramon Victorino & Laura Monlora , Morena Fenelon & Prisca S Moise, 420,000, 560 Andover St

C&M Properties LLC, NPG Properties LLC & PEJ Properties LLC, 1,620,000, 101 Shawsheen Rd

ESTEP Inc, Donaldo A Marroquin & Aura M Castaneda Recinos, 620,000, 245 Ferry St

Alfonso Rodriguez Jimenez, Jorge Alfredo Richardson, 545,000, 270-272 Farnham St

Juan Carlos Rosa Rivas & Anguelina Moran Genao, Kiara Selinet Colon & Omar Delos Santos, 644,000, 23-25 Ferry St

Orquidea Rose Gelin, Juan Jimenez Santo & Marcia Jimenez, 570,000, 1-3 Berkeley St

Michael T Perkins & Scott D Fairbanks & Sharon Fairbanks, Edison Urena, 466,000, 15 Elm St

John Gituku Mburu & Margaret Githii, Claudia Delacruz, 465,000, 34 Crestwood Cir

Heang Prack/Heang Prak, Saphon Shawn Khiev, 412,500, 36 Exeter ST

Juan Barahona, Jhoanny Santana & Rainy R Filpo, 374,900, 6 Endicott St

Steven M Desandis, Allan Cuscia, 350,000, 70-72 Bowdoin St

Tracey Byrd & Marilyn F Found Est, Lauren Demoy & Derek Leopold, 340,000, 5 Halsey St

Amy & Edwin R Estrella, Luisa M Merete & Priamo C Sanchez Terrero, 280,000, 106 Abbott St

Mary C V Sullivan, Micaela Jusczak & Casey Patrick King, 280,000, 21 Wedgewood Rd

Sandra Ramirez, Maria E Nunez, 270,000, 48 East Haverhill St Unit 1A

Nuris Deabad, Irma E Devargas & Osiris Jaquez, 358,000, 102A Cambridge St

Joseph K & Deirde Thompson, Daniel A Rojas & Alexandra Molina Toro, 295,000, 15 Debbie Ln Unit 15

CCM Properties Group LLC, Lacey Faria, 120,000, 260 E Haverhill St Unit 20

JMM Properties LLC, La Belle Maison LLC, 1,560,000, 94-96, 98-100 Osgood St

Allam Garcia, Brian Flores, 650,000, 41 Crosby St

Hector Rosario & Myrna Zayas, Jose M Perez Baez, 500,000, 1-3 Willoughby St

Elvis Javier, Julio C Aria Medrano, 640,000, 126-128 Sanborn St

Julia I Silverio Tr & Jose D Silverio Tr & Yalivan Real Estate Trust, Diverse Real Estate LLC, 585,000, 10 S Broadway Etc

Kathleen D Michel Tr & MDK Properties Realty Trust, Widman Mendez Niz, 583,000, 146-148 Farnham St

Juan & Irma Pacheco/Irma Rojas, Lyndsey Fallon Meyer, 430,000, 11 Kent St

Felix Veras, Altagracia L Hidalgo & Mauricio A Toribio, 427,000, 98 Foster St

Washington Mills Apartments LP, Berkeley GGC Canal St LLC, 30,975,000, 270 Canal St

Andrea Management Corp, Berkeley GGC Canal St II LLC, 3,475,000, 246-250 Canal St

AMC Properties LLC, DLC Phase One LLC, 785,000, 803-805 Essex St

Washington Mills Apartments LP, Berkeley GGC Canal St LLC, 63,975,000, 240 Canal St

La Belle Maison LLC, 375-379 Haverhill Lawrence LLC, 1,450,000, 375 Haverhill St

Freddy Pena, Jose & Xiomisell A Compres, 585,000, 26-26A Cedar St

Jorge Hernandez & Lucila M Martinez, Anny Hernandez & Leonardo De Mata Frias, 450,000, 30-32 Tenney St

Mark & Amy Mellman, Merrimack Valley Real Estate Solutions LLC, 380,000, 5 Temple St

Kelvin J Rojas, Juan Gonzalez Taveras & Ysabel Jimenez Concepcion, 280,000, 372 Park St

Maria E Hidalgo De Gabin & Santo Gabin, Jose Manuel Lopez, 465,000, 71 Fern St

Jenryann Diaz, Annie Mamie Poquee, 360,000, 59 Amherst St

Jose Llibre, Taylor L Hancock, 245,000, 61 Mann St Unit B

CCM Properties Group LLC, Kimngan Nguyen Vo, 116,250, 11 Lawrence St Unit 606

Karen M Grover, Jose M Gonzalez, 530,000, 268-270 Bailey St

Phu V & Anh Thi Nguyen, Jovanny Sanchez & Shirlie Rodriguez De Sanchez, 533,000, 91-93 Ames St

CCM Properties Group LLC, Kyle Regan, 122,250, 11 Lawrence St Unit 509

Josue Garcia, Fausto Abreu & Juan Farcon Valenzuela, 459,000, 9 Forest St

Ruth Ann Bernardin, JLK Investment Group LLC, 150,000, 262 E Haverhill St Unit 23

Diverse Construction & Real Estate LLC, Jessica M Matias & Marcos A Almonte, 610,000, 56 Smith St

William Cruz & Juana Magalys Cruz, Luis A Matul Matul & Saira I Matul De Matul, 570,000, 36-38 Swan St

Basilio Jaime, Muthsous Marcel, 560,000, 61 Knox St Unit 1

Nicole Cotto, Ramon Victorino & Laura Monlora, 545,000, 22-24 Clarke St

Cynthia Z Harkness & Stephen M Zappala & Donna Z Kelly, Kelvin Abreu, 500,000, 477-487 Howard St

Juan Rozon, Adolfo A Burgos, 461,000, 75 Ferry St

Esperanza Academy Inc, Maria E Rosado Rivas, 400,000, 57 Abbott St

Beatriz Ortega & Paulino Castillo, Victor Liriano Jorge, 599,900, 47-47A Myrtle St

Joseph P Fiorante & John M Fiorante & Anthony Fiorante & James L Fiorante, Mark Santiago, 355,000, 32 Woodland St

Perfecto Portorreal, Alex Espinosa, 315,000, 773 Essex St

MJC Development Corp, Oi Ping Ha, 658,000, 87C & D Belknap St

Marvin Eid & Paulina Eid & Assad Eid, Juan C De Leon Morales, 620,000, 81-83 Irene St

Powered By B LLC, Basilio & Rosa J Jaime, 420,000, 55 Ferry St

Angel Daniel Boria & Yannis Galvez, Jose A & Ana S Taveras, 400,000, 33-35 Exchange St

Tatiana Moquete, Hector A Rivas Realegeno & Maria A Nunez De Rivas, 146,000, 312 Water St Unit 41

Ana Mendoza, Thi Kim Chi Ho, 143,000, 264 East Haverhill St Unit 21

METHUEN

Fernando & Agnes Rico, Dilenia D Acosta & Willis N Medina, 810,000, 2 Hitching Post Ln

Brent E & Jennelle K McGrath, Tyler J Strem & Siobhan M Murphy, 525,000, 18 Duston Dr

Joseph Fitzgibbons Tr & 637 Prospect Street Realty Trust, Bachir M Atallah, 280,000, 126A Pleasant Valley St Unit 11

Armano Realty Investments Inc, Joseph Armano, 254,000, 46 Atkinson St

Anthony Rose, VMTR LLC,

$37,355.88, 1 Short St

David J Brown, William R & Jacqueline P Travis, 575,000, 12 Jefferson Rd

Gary S Santarpio Sr & Deborah A Santarpio, David Fogarty, 535,000, 54 Chippy Ln

John R Shea, Elizabeth Gomez & Jose D Colon, 310,000, 71 Oakland Ave Unit 3

Daniel Pelczar & Timothy Pelczar & Suzanne Pelczar & Rosemary T Jangraw, Ariel LLC, 231,000, 80 Howe St

Gemma Grenier/Gemma Balestraci , Jennifer Stevanovich, 545,000, 34 Venice Rd

Toll MA Land III LP, Steven W & Lisa L Dellanno, 593,830, 57 Phoebe St Unit 33

Mary-Ruth Anne Roby , Abdelkrim Nadar & Lamya Taifa, 285,000, 15 Kirk St

Lixin Qiao & Zhen Zhu, Matthew Sifferlen, 248,000, 945 Riverside Dr Unit 3B

Robert W Campbell, Todd Fitzgerald Tr & Father & Son Realty, 235,000, 134 Edgewood Ave

Susan L Congo, Donald G Mustapha Sr & Susan L Mustapha, 160,000, 20 Randolph Ave

Marlene Diodati/Marlene Diodate & Michael Diodati, Hector A Arias Torres & Virmania R Monegro Batista, 440,000, 195 Pleasant Valley St

Kimball Road Nominee Trust & Angela Medici Tr, Taryn Demato & Nick Jean Baptiste, 413,000, 16 Kimball Rd

Joel Cartagena, Juan Sanchez, 680,000, 53-55 Lawrence St

Jelinson Gonzalez, Juan A Vasquez Umana, 640,000, 116-118 Tenney St

Linda A Bailey, Adam D & Carrianne M Winter, 545,000, 34 Magna Rd

Renee Bailey, Pierre & Mireille Bel Chery, 450,000, 17 Weisner Pkw

Saul Stanley Tabachnick Est & Madeline Shavelson, Benjamin Pinales, 215,000, 89 Pilgrim Cir Unit 89

Robert R & Karen A Andrew/Kara A Andrew, Margaret W Njigua, 465,000, 4 Ferry Rd Unit 2

Michelle A & Joseph A Centore Jr, Dimosthenis P Hatzigiannis, 431,000, 112 Baltic st

Wilbing & Nanette Torres/Nanette Cintron, Laeste Onofre Vargas, 430,000, 227 Pelham St.

Karen L Lariviere, Robert Schiller Jr Tr & Robert Schiller Jr Revocable Trust, 200,000, 34 Adelaide Ave Unit A

Donald Guilmette, Kenneth Dimmock, 91,435.40, 31 Woodburn Dr

Toll MA Land III LP, Safet & Emina Osmancevic, 618,706, 1 Plover Ln Unit 109

William J & Ellen S Richter, 232 Hampstead LLC, 200,000, 232 Hampstead St

Thomas Tucker & Joyce V Tucker Life Est, Michael Courtney Tr & 22 Lincoln Realty Trust, 65,000, 22 Lincoln St

Thomas F & Karen L Dumont Trs & Spencer Street Trust, Biannca Deazevedo Cardosa & Welberth Vinicius O Gomes, 640,000, 15 Spencer St

Rafael Pabon-Diaz, Jesusa Velazquez & Keisha Velazquez-Diaz, 208,000, 6-8 Larchwood Rd

Robert & Karen Norton/Karen Duemling, Carlos M Umana, 690,000, 86-88 Birchwood Rd

Manuel R & Elizabeth Rodriguez, Roseli Rodriguez, 600,000, 41-43 Kirk St

HB2 Alternative Holdings LLC, Daniel Murray Jr, 245,000, 27 Canobieola Rd

Michael W Messineo Est & Christopher J Messineo, Vantroy Nunez, 410,000, 20 Louise Ave

Ange Simone Street Realty Trust & Alicia McNichols Tr &Tracy McNichols Tr, Devin Rogers & Ryan Rourke, 220,000, 26 Simone St

Toll MA Land III LP, Norma B Murphy, 535,139, 3 Plover Ln Unit 110

Richard Rubera & Donna Busfield, Jordan Elizabeth & Matthew Derian Quartararo, 370,000, 40 Baremeadow St

Leo F Kirane Est & Lillian Della Penna, Douglas Chirichiello & Philip Akmakjian, 325,000, 34 Davis Rd

Paul B Soucy, Marie Andree Tropnas & Armael Cesar, 495,000, 119 West St

Edward M Finn Jr, Gerardo Vega, 356,000, 2 Newhill Rd

Brooke A Eklund , Carol Delfino, 235,000, 23 Hampshire Rd Unit 23-204

James W & Mary J Karamourtopoulos, Wissam & Gretta Merheb, 730,000, 3 Treetop Wy

Toll MA Land III LP, Ross L & Pamela S Frushour, 709,410, 5 Plover Ln Unit 111

John J Digney & Linda A Digney Est, Matthew E Vertucci & Alyssa J Mackey, 621,000, 18 First Ave

Candor Realty Investment Group LLC, Jhan Nunez, 550,000, 112 Perry Ave

Paul D Reitano Sr, Danny Realty LLC, 530,000, 181 Merrimack St

Nancy Bouchard , Soeuth X Saut & Mai Nguyen, 455,000, 42 Anderson Dr.

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Stephan A & Rebecca M Rinaldi, Christina C & Scott R Ramsdell, 808,000, 743 Winter St.

Anne C Prendergast & Thomas Charles Prendergast Est/Thomas C Prendergast Est, Benjamin D Waite, 360,000, 2 Harvest Dr Unit 305

Stacey A Cupka 2016 Family Trust & Stacey A Cupka Tr & Robert J Cupka Tr, William R McElroy Jr & Tiffany E Goddard, 709,900, 111 Barker St

Lloyd C & Janet L Shipley, Philip Gaetano & Blair Koniszewski, 427,000, 18 Marengo St Unit 3

John Francis Sheehan Jr, 33-35 Lincoln Street LLC, 399,000, 33-35 Lincoln St

Doris E Diorio & Salvatore Ciaramataro, Michele Gorham, 285,000, 68 Fernview Ave Unit 2

June A Hassenfratz/June A McAdam, Janet Forman, 282,000, 24 Village Green Dr Unit 84

Marco & Anmarie Cenisio, Muge Tuncel & Michael T Sweeney, 1,335,000, 52 Molly Towne Rd

D Todd & Diane D Donaldson , Tyler & Natalie Young, 665,000, 188-192 High St

Carolyn Murphy, Michael J & Elizabeth Carpentiere, 700,000, 125 Heath Rd

Kevin J & Catherine R Bourque, Andrew P Tomasini, 340,000, 612 Chickering Rd

Thomas Hart & Adrea Hunter Hart, Sudeep & Vandna Chawla, 850,000, 125 Palomino Dr

Kathrine Pawlusiak/Katherine Pawlusiak & Bennett Pawlusiak, Gary & Biana Perez , 729,900, 2130 Turnpike St

Delroy & Denise F Smith, Adam W Rowe, 701,000, 93-95 Surrey Dr

O'Donnell Nominee Trust of 2015 & John J Walsh Tr & Gale M O'Donnell Tr, Mary Fountain Carroll, 253,000, 148 Main St Unit C-437

M Victoria Hunt Tr & Vicky Hunt Revocable Trust, Kathryn Funk Long & Gregory Colin Long, 339,000, 99 Autran Ave

Robert F & Sheila M Dugan, Anthony M Angelsco, 285,000, 23 Village Green Dr Unit 26

O'Connor Family Irrevocable Trust & William D O'Connor Tr, Gina Raphanella, 560,000, 165 Chadwick St

Stefano & Gabrielle Sestito, Benjamin & Cassandra Delossantos, 910,000, 2017 Salem St

Jack D Armstrong, Matthew B Levis, 875,000, 116 Sherwood Dr

Jason J & Ashleigh C Jones, David M & Joy P Wilmouth, 850,000, 171 Forest St

Christina C Poor/Christina Ramsdell, Brycen A Dowd & Michaela F Johnston, 527,625, 125 Water St

S & N Realty Trust & Norma B Murphy Tr, Bernard Edmund Cantwell, 703,000, 1510 Great Pond Rd

Elizabeth A Dunigan, Eileen Donovan-Elliott, 375,000, 628 Chickering Rd Unit 628

Inga C Larson, Annia Bosse, 325,000, 32 Millpond

Kevin M Hartwell & Donald A MacNamara, Welerson Bruno De Almeida, 225,000, 90 Edgelawn Ave Unit 5

KevinW & Jennifer M Costello, Erica Marieb, 1,140,000, 37 Chestnut St

Anne G Daly, Alexander & Alexandra Khmurets, 650,000, 162 Bradford St

Gregory E & Michele J Stein , Amy Stephens, 850,000, 614 Forest St

William E Busineau Jr & Louise A Busineau, Terrence McGaughey & Jennifer Grant, 505,000, 3 Herrick Rd

Donna F Goldman Tr & Mass 125 Realty Trust, Raymond L Estee, 210,000, 67 Fernview Ave Unit 5

Cynthia L Maes, Panorama Investment Group LLC, 198,000, 6 Walker Rd Unit 8

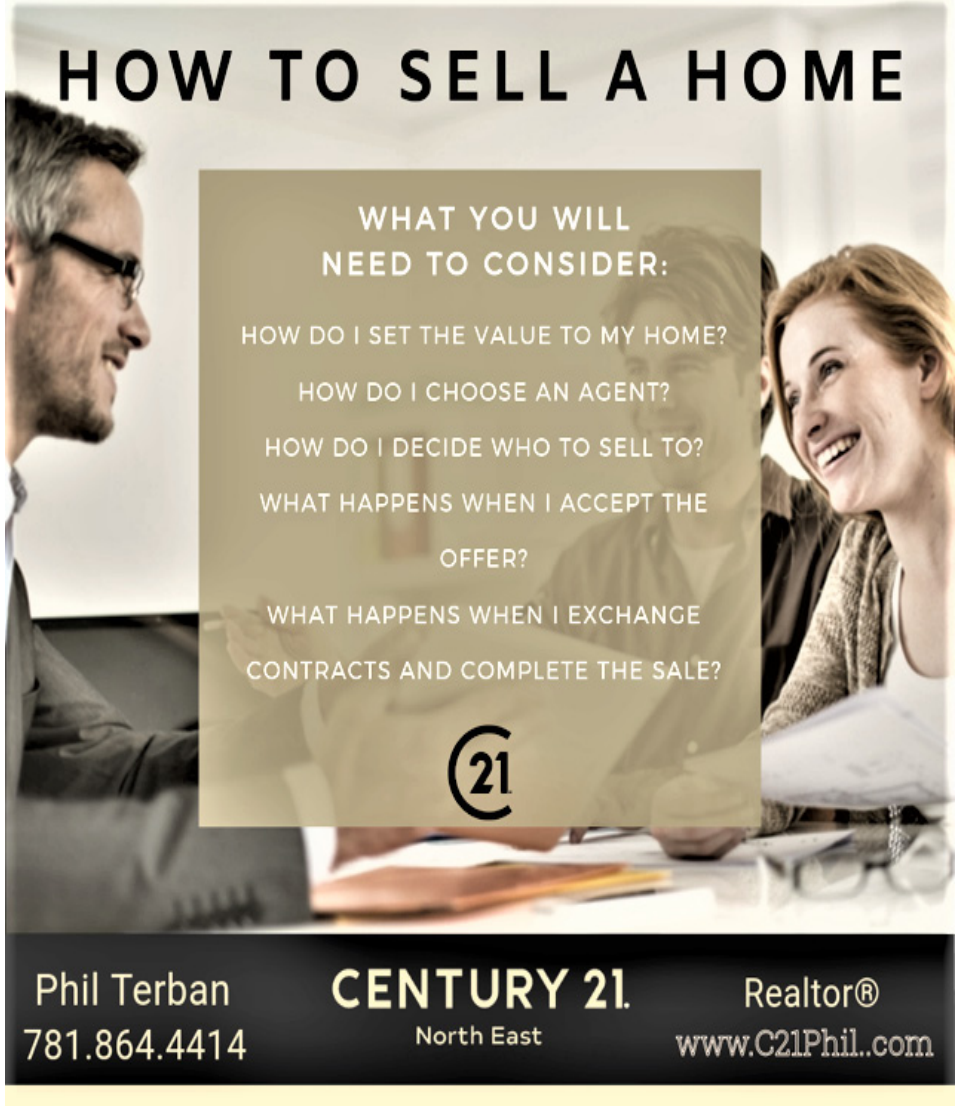
Deshler Family Trust & John F Deshler Tr , Adam Nelson, 197,000, 16 Kingston St Unit 117

Nicholas Edward & Meghan Elizabeth Anderson, Eric L Parsons & Heidi R Minzner, 1,300,000, 67 Molly Towne Rd

Y R LP, CP North Andover LLC, 4,750,000, 419 Andover St

PR Investments LLC & MR Investments LLC, Angela M O'Dowd & Stephen J Collura, 1,200,000, 1046 Great Pond Rd

Leslie Rowe Tr & Gilboard Family Irrevocable Trust, Kristen E Mills, 572,000, 200 Sandra Ln.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VFW Lorraine Post 29 Bring Easter to Veterans in Haverhill

On Saturday, April 3, 2021, The Haverhill VFW teamed up with multiple Veteran organizations and community members to provide free Easter dinners to Veterans and their families within the city. All the meals were free, and all that was required was a simple registration in advance through the Post. The meal consisted of baked ham, mac and cheese, and green beans and was packaged in microwavable containers to be reheated on Easter Sunday.

This Easter meal was a team effort that brought in support from several different Veteran organizations in Haverhill. Besides the VFW Post 29, there were members from the Disabled American Veterans Chapter 20, AMVETS Post 147, Marine Corps League, American Legion Post 4, and the Korean War Veterans Association Chapter 294. There was also strong support from the community, Easter cards were donated by students from Whittier Tech, and local businesses like Peddler's Daughters had employees who assisted with deliveries.

In addition to the free meals, the Haverhill VFW teamed up with Disabled and Limbless veterans and Everett Grace Food Pantry & Outreach. They supplied over 100 bags of groceries, which consisted of eggs, butter, cereal, cans of soup, a half-gallon of juice, and much more. There were also hundreds of pounds of donated chicken, cases of juice, packages of beef stew, and much more that were also distributed. There was more than enough food that made sure the Veterans in Haverhill were not just well-fed for Easter but had plenty of food for at least the next two weeks.

Commander Keith Gopsill stated, "This Easter we tried to make as special as possible for the Veterans in Haverhill, given the pandemic, and knowing first hand how challenging the last year has been we as a Post set out to remind the Veterans that we are here for them, and they have our support." Sr. Vice Commander Shawn Watkins adds, "it was an honor to be able to work with not just the other Veteran organizations, but the

community as well to prepare and deliver over 250 meals to the Veterans that call Haverhill home."

The Commander shared, "Although the pandemic has thrown a wrench in a lot of our lives, we as a Post knew the Veterans in Haverhill were going to need our support in some way. So the VFW made it their mission to do what they can to be there for the veteran community." Nothing that since June 2020, the Haverhill VFW has served and delivered over 1,000 free prepared meals to date. "Stay tuned, the VFW has more in store for the year. Our next focus is Memorial Day, and details for that will be made public very soon." If you would like to stay connected with VFW Lorraine Post 29, you can follow them on Facebook and view their website www.vfw29.org for regular updates.

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TV TALK with BILL CUSHING

‘Superman & Lois’

Bill Cushing
VALLEY PATRIOT TV COLUMNIST

I have stayed away from the overwhelming deluge of superhero shows that have appeared on TV and streaming services in recent years because I felt like they’ve gotten out of hand. Too much, too fast. But when I saw a new Superman series was coming, I decided I would give it a try. I’ve always been a big Superman fan and wanted to see what this would be like. So far, I haven’t been disappointed.

‘Superman & Lois’ premiered on the CW on March 23, 2021 with an interesting premise. After years of fighting crime in Metropolis and becoming the world’s most famous superhero, Superman a.k.a Clark Kent and his wife, the world-famous journalist Lois Lane are still working at the Daily Planet. Their teenage twin sons, Jonathan and Jordan, are high school students. Jonathan is a confident and popular student athlete while Jordan is a loner that suffers from anxiety. Neither of them knows their father’s secret.

The death of Clark’s mother causes the family to return to his hometown of Smallville, KS, where Clark reunites with old friends, including his old girlfriend Lana Lang Cushing. While home Clark and Lois soon learn that Clark may not be the only one with special abilities. Their son Jordan has shown some signs of having some powers as well. This eventually leads to Clark’s secret being revealed to his sons and the family decides that it would be best for them to give up their lives in Metropolis and stay in Smallville, where they could live a quieter existence.

The Kent boys now face their own challenges like coming to grips with the idea of who their father really is, and also other normal teenage stuff, like adjusting to a new school, making new friends, etc. Jordan Elsass and Alexander Garfin hand in noteworthy performances as Jonathan and Jordan, respectively.

The impressive cast also includes Tyler Hoechlin as Clark/Superman and Elizabeth Tulloch as Lois Lane. Both do a great job with their roles. Hoechlin is a terrific Superman, and Tulloch plays Lois with the toughness that we’d expect from a big city reporter, plus the compassion and understanding that it takes as the wife of a superhero and the mother of two teenage boys. Emmanuelle Chriqui (Entourage) as Lana, does a nice job. Dylan Walsh is also a worthy addition as Sam Lane, Lois’s military father, who has known Clark’s secret since the beginning.

The youth cast is also quite good. Along with the aforementioned Jordan Elsass and Alexander Garfin as the Kent boys, Inde Navarrette is very good as Sarah Cushing, Lana’s daughter. It’s nice to see teenage characters that look and act like actual teenagers for a change.

This series has a bigger budget than all of the other CW Superhero entries, and it shows. The visual effects of ‘Superman & Lois’ are top notch

For me, what separates this version of Superman from all the others that have come before it, is that we really haven’t seen this story before. We haven’t seen Superman and Lois be struggling parents before and because of that, we’ve never realized that Superman would probably be a pretty crappy Dad who’s never around. We haven’t seen Lois struggling to maintain a normal life for her two sons while her husband is off saving the world. ‘Superman & Lois’ shows us that side of the story along with some of what you might expect.

Superman might be faster than a speeding bullet, and be able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, but the Man of Steel can be just as human as you or me. Superman’s humanity and dealing with very human issues is what makes ‘Superman & Lois’ shine.

‘Superman & Lois’ airs Tuesdays at 9 on the CW.

If you have any questions about TV you can email me at BillsTVTalk@gmail.com. I will answer all of your questions and will feature some of the questions I receive in a future Mailbag column. Follow me on Twitter @BillsTVTalk and on Facebook at BillsTVTalk for daily up-to-the-minute TV news and discussion.◊

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Who Is In Your Boat During The Storms of Life?

Peter Larocque
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

God Bless you all and Happy Resurrection Sunday! The world calls this day Easter, but I prefer Resurrection Sunday because what they celebrate is a cute fictional fuzzy white rabbit. But in the real world, this rabbit does absolutely nothing but leave its droppings all around to make sure it gets noticed!

In complete contrast, Resurrection Sunday marks the beginning of something new! We read in Romans 6:4-5, "Therefore we were buried with Him through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been united together in the likeness of His death, certainly we also shall be in the likeness of His resurrection," NKJV. Because Jesus Lives, we can rest assured we shall live too!! Hallelujah!!!

And to my Jewish friends, "chag Pesach kasher vesame'ach" This is Hebrew, and it means, I wish you a "kosher and joyous Passover."

Now to the question at hand, who do we have in our boat during the storms that take place in our lives? Somehow this wrong belief that when an individual gets saved, born-again, that he or she now can live a life that is forever storm-free. This is foolish thinking because the Bible says in 2 Timothy 3:12, "Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution." NKJV. Jesus himself said, John 16:33, "These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." NKJV.

We live in a stormy world and from time-to-time storms will pop up! This does not mean that the storms are of God's making, but God can use a storm as a teachable moment! Storms can stand as tests of our character and storms can show up without warning!

I remember a time being in a boat with my younger brother and a friend, we were out fishing in late afternoon off the coast in the South End of New Bedford Massachusetts. All of a sudden without any notice a large thick fog developed right in front of our eyes. So thick we had a very hard time seeing our hands in front of our faces. Under these conditions my brother had to go to the bow with a flashlight to watch for large objects as we tried to navigate our way back to the docks near the shoreline. I was in the center of the boat doing the same. Our friend was in the stern operating the motor. Thank God all ended well.

Jesus' disciples had a similar situation and it is recorded in Mark 4:35-41, "On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, "Let us cross over to the other side." 36 Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. 37 And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. 38 But He [Jesus] was in the stern, [the rear part] asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, "Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?"39 Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, "Peace, be still!" And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. 40 But He said to them, "Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?" 41 And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, "Who can this be, that even the wind and the sea obey Him!" NKJV.

There are several learning points in this story that I would like to bring to your attention. First Jesus was with them in the boat, and it is He who gave them the Promise! He told them, "Let's go over to the other side"! Secondly, a great storm began to take place. This storm was not caused by Jesus or his disciples. This storm was caused by the devil to stop the promise from happening which was we are going to the other side! Thirdly, this storm became a test of the disciples' character and faith. Jesus was not awakened by the storm but by the cries from his disciples, "Teacher don't you care"!!! Fourthly, Jesus arose and rebuked his disciples, NO HE DIDN'T!!! He rebuked the storm! Jesus did, however, question their faith. Why? Because of who was in their boat! That's right, when it comes to faith, what really matters is not the size of your faith, but who you have faith in?

Jesus is just not the Promise Maker, He is the Promise Keeper!!! Let's go over to the other side!!! This promise doesn't change because of a storm. Remember what 2 Peter 3:9, says to us, "The Lord is not slack concerning His

LAROCQUE: PAGE 21

BENEATH THE SURFACE

Language Manipulation

Paul Murano
VALLEY PATRIOT COLUMNIST

Whoever controls the language controls the culture. The right use of language conveys objective truth. Yet, ideology depends on manipulating terms to convert the uncritical masses to a particular worldview.

America now has two generations formed by professional language manipulators, seeking to create a society addicted to itself in order to maintain power.

Below is an illustration of how language obscures truth. The terms on the left of the "vs." are current popular verbiage, and the terms on the right are more honest and objective.

'She's pregnant' vs. 'She's with child'

The term "pregnant" speaks exclusively of the condition of the mother. While this is important, it does not express the full truth. The traditional term "with child" includes both parties and expresses the beauty and awe of pregnancy rather than making it sound like a disease.

'She's going to have a baby' vs. 'She's going to deliver or give birth to a baby'

Similarly, since "going to have" denotes future tense, and medical science is clear on when an individual human being begins his or her life, "going to deliver" a baby or "give birth to" a child is more accurate.

'It' vs. 'He or she'

This is a common one. "It" dehumanizes.

'She's not ready to be a mother' vs. 'She is a mother that does not feel ready'

The reality is that if she's with child she is a mother.

'Fetus' vs. 'Preborn child' or 'Person in their fetal stage of life'

Although embryo and fetus are proper scientific terms for early stages of a human being's life cycle, they are often used as an attempt to dehumanize.

'Terminate the pregnancy' vs. 'Kill the child'

If you terminate a pregnancy by killing the child, it's disingenuous not to mention that.

'Abortion' vs. 'Prenatal homicide' or 'murder'

Intentionally killing an innocent human being is the definition of murder. Objectively, abortion is murder; however, in cases of genuine ignorance on the part of the one responsible, the neutral term "prenatal homicide" is appropriate.

'Euthanasia' vs. 'Consensual murder'

Euthanasia is homicide; and since it intentionally kills an innocent person, it's also objectively murder. It doesn't kill the pain, it kills the patient.

'Gay' or 'Homosexual' vs. 'Person with disordered attractions to the same sex'

Everyone has disordered desires. Using the words gay or homosexual to label someone with disordered desires for the same sex is both historically new and counter-productive. It identifies people with their feelings and is born of political motivation: If homosexual orientation can be seen as "who" one is rather than "what" one feels, minority status may be claimed for special privileges.

'Premarital sex' vs. 'Fornication'

Premarital sex is a morally neutral sociological term. The traditional term for sex outside marriage is fornication, which comes from Latin. It is listed in the New Testament among the grave sins that keep one from entering the Kingdom of heaven, and was universally condemned by Western culture until the sexual revolution of the 1960's.

'Use protection' vs. 'Use an unnatural impediment'

This illogically speaks of protecting oneself from the natural end of an act. It depicts pregnancy as a disease rather than an indication of good health.

'The world is overpopulated' vs. 'The world is underpopulated'

This lie began in earnest with "The Population Bomb" by Paul Ehrlich in 1968. The Western world is actually going through a depopulation crisis. Further, if every family in the world were to have a home on a quarter acre of land, the entire world could fit into the state of Texas. There is not a population problem, but a distribution of goods problem.

'Adult' vs. 'Pornographic'

"Adult" is an attempt at making pornography sound mature. Yet, regarding sexuality, there is nothing more immature or un-adult than pornography.

'In love' vs. 'Infatuated'

The emotional high that often defines being "in love" is a misnomer. The essence of love is not a feeling, but a commitment. If emotion and

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LAROCQUE: FROM 20

promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance." NKJV.

As children of God let's stay focused on the promises of God rather than the darkness that is in the world. 2 Corinthians 1:20 teaches us, "For all the promises of God in Him are Yes, and in Him Amen, to the glory of God through us." NKJV. Amen!!! So, my dear readers, who do you have in your boat?

Love to all of you,
Peter Larocque
peterlarocque@hotmail.com ◊

GAYS: FROM 11

I've also been working extremely hard at educating myself in the history of marginalized groups and the systemic racism and homophobia in our country in order to recognize it within myself to change it. Even if you don't believe you are racist and homophobic why not explore the histories and educate yourself to end the indoctrination? Why not strive to be a better person? ◊

LANGUAGE: FROM 20

desire become ends in themselves, the relationhip quickly dissolves into selfishness. Real love says, "I love you in spite of…" rather than, "I love you because of…"

'Abstinence' vs. 'Chastity'

Abstinence doesn't work without the discipline of chastity. Like fasting or dieting, if one does not include the psychological, emotional, spiritual and moral dimensions of the human person, it's futile. Chastity disciplines the eyes, mind, and heart so that one is able to discipline the body according to what is true and good.

'Transgender' vs. 'Gender-confused'

The latest from the Left, this condones hormonal and/or surgical mutilation for gender dysphoria.

'Alternative lifestyle' vs. 'Perversion of human nature'

If you throw out the natural order of life according to human nature, nothing is seen as perverted. That is a big problem today.

Paul is producer and host of Beneath the Surface video and radio podcasts, teaches philosophy & theology, and is a staff writer/producer for St. Michael's Media. He's also a singer-songwriter-musician. Check out his website at Paulmurano.com. E-mail Paul at PJDM@aol.com

The Day the Music Died

Carmine Iuvara
VALLEY PATRIOT CONTRIBUTOR

As a concern concert promoter bands Clubs . trying to struggle to make ends meet this Coronavirus as put a impact

On the music industry in my entire life since I've been a concert promoter from the early 70s I have never seen anything like this it's been chaos after chaos bands that trying to struggle trying to make ends meet put food on the table getting the paycheck paying car bills mortgages rent and I could go on and on it's been a rollercoaster. Clubs are trying to make ends meet also trying to rearrange the whole establishment to accommodate the 6-foot distance and so on actually it's like starting all over again.

People just can't wait to go out there and dance the night away bands are trying to play Under the Stars take home a paycheck clubs are trying to struggle to make ends meet the entertainment business and the restaurant business are been hit the hardest there's finally a little bit of light right at the end of the tunnel we hope. Just previous year we had a phenomena calendar year

I had been booked 3 months straight at the Winnekenni Castle in Haverhill. We had bookings in Lowell Boston and everything just fell apart we even had to shut down the Sahara Club it was just chaos it was a disastrous year no profits whatsoever hopefully this year will be just a bit better let's keep our fingers crossed.

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SUE PIAZZA'S BOOK CORNER

One Lonely Night by Mickey Spillane

Book Review: © 1951 by E.P. Dutton & C0, Inc.

A Signet Book Published by The New American Library

Genre: Fiction

Bookmarkers 5 of 5

A prolific writer, when this book by Mickey Spillane was published in August of 1951 it underwent 17 printings before my issue. My back jacket cover stated that over 15 million of his books had been published, and this was in January of 1953! According to the internet, those printed now exceed 225 million copies. In 1995 Mr. Spillane was named a Mystery Writers of America Grand Master.

Condemned by a judge for violent behavior, chance finds private investigator Mike Hammer struggling with his personal demons when life, another's, intervenes. A woman's leap from a bridge and a plain green card cut at odd angles propels the plot. The story line, though dated, is a glimpse into the world and mindset of life after World War II.

The voice of this book belongs to the hardened yet insightful gumshoe. Written in the first person, this approach gives the reader a sense of immediacy. We quickly learn, through the green card, that cold war tensions are fueled by U.S. subversive communist sympathizers. This topic, fair game for the time period, is exploited in this 1950's book.

The character of Mike Hammer is a well-developed troubled and flawed hero who battles the evils of his day. A combat veteran who learned how to legally kill Hammer informs us that "… I could never again eat the fruits of a normal civilization." This, and the judge's admonition, is the root of the character's self-examination which plays brilliantly into the overall plot of this story.

The gritty, dark New York streets come alive through Mr. Spillane's poetic sentences. "The rain was misty enough to be almost fog-like, a cold gray curtain that separated me from the pale ovals of white that were faces locked behind the steamed-up windows of the car that hissed by." This work is also replete with nice alliterations an example of which is: "… spidery steel skeleton."

One unexpected phrase was "colored fellow". Though unexpected and jarring, I had to remember its employment and association was everyday language back in the day when this book was written.

One of the reasons I still had this book to review was its cover. I can always tell the age of a book by its cover much like I can always pick out a 1930's fabric by its soft pastel prints, both are very distinctive. This cover was no different. The top part of an unconscious naked female is held up by her rope tied hands. A trench coated man with a hat covering his eyes holding a gun is seen entering through an open cellar door. Quite provocative and meant to get the public to purchase its contents it successfully accomplishes this feat as his sales figures can attest to.

Complete with requisite stereotypes, the 1980's television show "Mickey Spillane's Mike Hammer", based on the author's books, is currently on "getTV" M-F 6 pm.

I'd recommend checking both out for an interesting comparison and an entertaining time.

Susan Piazza, a Navy veteran, is an author, columnist, and blogger. She can be found at susanpiazzaauthor.com Her newly released book, the historical fiction "A Bird Call That Isn't," can be found on Amazon at: A Bird Call That Isn't.

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